

# The Connecticut General Assembly

## House Democrats



September 8, 2016

### REP. ABERCROMBIE NAMED 2016 CHILDREN'S CHAMPION

**State Rep. Cathy Abercrombie** (D-Meriden) was named a 2016 Children's Champion by The Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance, an organization that recognizes lawmakers for their commitment and leadership on children's issues.

Founded in 2002, the Connecticut Early Childhood Alliance is a statewide organization committed to improving outcomes in the areas of learning, health, safety, and economic security for children ages birth to eight.

Every year, the Alliance recognizes legislators for their leadership on issues that impact the well-being of Connecticut's young children in the areas of healthy development, early care and education, nutrition, and safety.

"Although much of the focus during the session was on filling holes in the state budget, a number of early childhood issues received attention," said **Merrill Gay**, Executive Director of the CT Early Childhood Alliance. "Some very important early childhood issues were raised, and some good legislation did pass."

**Rep. Abercrombie** said, "Being named a Children's Champion by this devoted organization is such an enormous honor. I have been privileged to make the list of lawmakers recognized for this award during the last few years, and each time it gives me a sense of renewed satisfaction knowing that my work is making a contribution toward improving the lives of Connecticut's children."

Among the items the legislature passed this year: Repeal of the sales tax on diapers, which was included in the budget implementer and is set to take effect July 1, 2018 and House Bill 5466, which requires background checks and notice of convictions for any household member in a family child care home or group child care home.

Other important issues raised included paid family and medical leave, childhood obesity prevention, increased access to early childhood programs for homeless children, and recruitment and retention of the early childhood workforce.

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